

appropriate criteria for ensuring essential and life saving drugs not to fall out of price control...". As per the directions of the Supreme Court the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare reviewed the National Essential Drugs List 1996 and brought out the National List of Essential Medicines 2003 (NLEM 2003).

A Draft National Pharmaceutical Policy 2006 was prepared proposing price control for 354 drugs with specified strengths mentioned in the NLEM 2003. The draft National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006 is under finalisation. A Joint Committee with members from the drug industry has been constituted under the Chairpersonship of Secretary (C&PC) to suggest, *interalia*, interpretation of order dated 10.03.2003 of the Supreme Court in SLP 3668/2003. The Joint Committee is yet to submit its report to the Government.

Government laid a Statement on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 29th March, 1978, containing its decisions on the recommendations of the Committee on Drugs and Pharmaceuticals industry under the Chairmanship of Sri Jaisukhlal Hathi. Later this came to be known as Drug Policy, 1978. The drug policies of the Government as amended from time to time including the Drug Policy, 1978 are directed towards making available quality drugs at reasonable prices to the consumers in the country.

Nine point action plan for tackling diversion of PDS items

1072. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are serious about tackling massive leakages and diversions in the Public Distribution System and hence nine action points have been sent to all State Governments with a warning that if the measures are not taken seriously, allocations of foodgrains would be cut; and

(b) if so, the details of the suggested measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government is serious about tackling leakages and diversions of foodgrains meant for PDS. The State Governments/UT

Administrations have been directed to make the TPDS effective and to ensure that foodgrains reach the targeted population. In the event of leakages and diversions continuing unabated, the Government would be compelled to review the allocations for the defaulting States.

(b) Action Plan for States/UTs for curbing/diversions of foodgrains is as follows:

1. States should undertake a campaign for review of BPL/AAY lists, to eliminate ghost ration cards.
2. Strict action should be taken against the guilty to ensure leakage free distribution of foodgrains. In this respect information asked for under clause 9 of PDS Control Order, may also be sent.
3. For sake of transparency involvement of elected PRI members in distribution of foodgrains, licences be given to SHGs, gram panchayats, cooperatives, etc.
4. BPLVAAY lists should be displayed on all FPSs.
5. District-wise and FPS-wise allocation of foodgrains should be put up on websites and other prominent places, for public scrutiny.
6. Wherever possible, door step delivery of foodgrains should be ensured by States, instead of letting private transporters/wholesalers to transport goods.
7. Timely availability of foodgrains at FPS level and fixed dates of distribution to ration card holders should be ensured.
8. Training of members of FPS level Vigilance Committees should be ensured. Proposals for funding training can be sent to the GOI.
9. Computerisation of TPDS operations be undertaken. Proposals may be sent to GOI.

In addition, the Government has also taken steps for introduction of electronic transfer of funds to FCI and issued instructions for display of banners/Boards on the wind shield as well as rear end of the truck/vehicles carrying PDS articles indicating details of State Government, destination, commodity and Agent's name.